

NOT FOR RELEASE BEFORE SATURDAY, JUNE 9

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Six Tennessee Guard units to depart Tuesday

NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Army National Guard's 1/181st Field Artillery Battalion, composed of six units from across Tennessee, will leave Chattanooga Tuesday, June 12, headed for a mobilization training site in Texas.

They will remain there for an unspecified period of time before deploying to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Approximately 345 soldiers will depart by aircraft Tuesday. An advance contingent left earlier this week. The battalion was mobilized on June 4, at which time the Tennessee Guardsmen reported to their respective armories in Chattanooga, Dayton, Athens, Fayetteville, Pulaski and Lawrenceburg. All will be leaving from the Chattanooga National Guard Armory.

The first contingent of Guardsmen, primarily from Chattanooga, will depart the armory at 6:00 a.m. The second, a combination of Dayton, Athens, Fayetteville, Pulaski and Lawrenceburg, will leave at 7:00 p.m.; and the third, also a combination of these five cities, will depart at 8:00 p.m.

National Guard officials advise families wishing to see off their soldiers to be at the armory one hour prior to the departures.

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All Tennessee Army and Air National Guard press releases can be found at http://www.tnmilitary.org/PressReleases.htm